

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE

1. The only type of communications equipment used by the border guards when reporting to their immediate headquarters was a direct telephone line from the various guard houses along the border to the Military Border Guard (Wojsko Ochrony Pogranicza - WOP) Headquarters in Raciborz /5005N-1812E/. If radios were used, they would be used in communicating from WOP Headquarters to Warsaw. 25X1X

2. The telephones used in the guard houses were old, unreliable Russian models, encased in wood, that weigh approximately two kilos each. The instrument was about seven inches in length, five inches in depth, and three inches in width. There was no identifying plate on this telephone. It was a portable model so that all that was necessary was to insert the prongs into a wall outlet and turn the crank. It was very difficult to be heard through this telephone; although it was said to be a direct line, conversations from private telephone lines could be heard. Each guard house had a telephone, and communication could be made by first being connected through the switchboard at WOP headquarters in Raciborz. This telephone could be used in the field by attaching same to telephone wires which were strung above ground. But it was not the general practice for border guards to carry these telephones with them in the field. There were two Polish type batteries in this telephone. I do not know the name or type of battery, but each was about 4½ inches in length, 2½ inches in width, and about 1½ inches in depth. 25X1X

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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3. As to maintenance and repair of the telephone, the repair crew was located in WOP Headquarters in Raciborz. If there was a serious breakdown, a man was sent from HQ to make the repairs. This repair crew had no designated name, and I do not know how many repair men there were. Minor repairs were handled by the men in the guard house. Breakdowns were not frequent. Radio maintenance men and operators were trained in the Communications School (Szkola Łączności) in Gliwice 5017N-1840E7. I do not know how many men were accepted for each course, but each course lasted for six months. I remember that one course started in April. There were no special qualifications for prospective radio operators and maintenance men, and all age groups were accepted. The only qualification seemed to be past civilian experience as an electrician or an aptitude for same.
4. The border guard organization served as visual aircraft warning observers. There were no central headquarters known as such, but the recognition of any aircraft is reported by telephone from the guard house to WOP headquarters in Raciborz. The usual report was "Aircraft Unknown", meaning the type of aircraft is unknown even if it was of friendly or unfriendly origin. This report was called Air Report (Meldunek Powietrza). As all reports, it went through the following channels: to the duty officer of the battalion (Oficera Operacyjny w Baonu); who reported to the battalion commander (Dowódca Baonu), who in turn reported to the brigade commander (Dowódca Brygady). If the report was of a serious nature the brigade commander contacted Warsaw.
5. Other than the guards, I do not know if there were special aircraft warning observers located elsewhere. The only aircraft spotting equipment used by the guards were field glasses.
6. The border guards on sentry duty along the border had two means of communicating with the guard house. If, for example, someone was seen trying to cross the border, illegally, the border guard signaled with one of two guns. He could give three short bursts with his automatic pistol (Pistolet Maszynowy - PM) or three individual shorts with his rifle (Karabin Bojowy - KB). He could also signal to the guard house with his rocket gun (Pistolet Raketowy). If it is a daylight escape, he could signal with red or green smoke. If it is at night, the red rocket (not smoke) indicated that the escapee was already on the Czech side; a green rocket (not smoke) indicated that the escapee was on the Polish side.
7. These signals were picked up by the guard house guard who reported to the guard house commander (Dowódca Straznicy). He, in turn, reported to the battalion commander in open or plain language by telephone. In making the telephone report of the escape, the guard house crypto number was not used to identify the source of the call. The identity was automatically made by the switchboard operator in Raciborz when he got the call.
8. With the exception of the above, all other reports from the guard house commander to the battalion commander were submitted in numbered code in groups of three or four. Even the normal situation was reported by code. The normal situation was usually reported in groups of three, and the usual normal message was "Situation Without Change" (Sytuacja Bez Mian). These code numbers were read through the telephone to the code officer in Raciborz.

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9. Two daily contacts were made with headquarters. One at about 12 noon when the guard house reports to the code officer, and the other between 1400 and 1500 when the code officer from battalion HQ submitted orders to the guard house for the following day. Cryptonyms were used. For example, when a guard house commander reported to the battalion, he would say the following: "Cherry, Receive the Situation from Violet" (Wisnia, Przymujcie Sytuacji Z Fiolka), and he would proceed to read the "Situation Without Change" in numbered code. The battalion, in contacting the guard house would say, "Violet, Receive the Situation From Cherry," (Fiolek, Przymujcie Sytuacji Z Wisni). This identity line was spoken, but the message to follow would be in numbered code.
10. Two types of code boards were used in coding or decoding a message. One was referred to as the W-1, which was used for top secret information, and the other was the W-5 which was used for secret information. The size of these boards was about 13 by 28 inches and contained at least 50 words, such as soldier (Zolnierz), otter (wydra), as well as verbs, the letters of the alphabet, directions, and phrases such as "platoon marches", etc.
11. Each of the border guard houses had cryptonyms which were changed once at the first of each month. Some of the guard house cryptonyms were as follows: fiolek (violet), wydra (otter), brzoza (birch), kuna (marten), jablon (apple tree), bug, sarna (deer), grusza (pear tree), jelen (stag), orzech (nut), lilja (lily), morwa (mulberry tree), sosna (pine tree). The battalion headquarters in Raciborz sometimes used the cryptonym of wisnia (cherry). Brigade headquarters sometimes used the cryptonyms burza (storm) and moneta (coin).
12. The key of the code board was changed once each week. The key being the horizontal and vertical indicator or strips of paper. Each indicator contained the numbers from zero to nine. The numbers were not in consecutive order, and were changed at the Code Section (Sekoya Kodow) in the brigade merely by erasing the past week's number arrangement and inserting the new number arrangement. The new key, as well as changes in cryptonyms, was delivered by messenger in a sealed envelope and given to the officer in charge of the particular guard house.

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